

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING ON MOSCOW RADIATION

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JULY 7. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND "ON THE RECORD"
STATEMENTS BY PRESS SPOKESMAN IN RESPONDING TO ANY LOCAL
QUESTIONS.

QUESTION ONE: ONE OF THE SERIES OF QUESTIONS THAT WAS ASKED
YESTERDAY RELATED TO THE STATUS OF THE TWO CHILDREN WHO WERE
BROUGHT BACK FROM MOSCOW FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND THE REPLY
WAS ONE REMAINS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR EXAMINATION AND
TESTING AND THE OTHER WENT BACK TO MOSCOW FRIDAY, JULY 2.
CAN WE HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE CONDITION OF THESE TWO
CHILDREN. WHAT WAS THE CONCLUSION REACHED ON THE ONE SENT
BACK TO MOSCOW? WHAT IS THE CONCLUSION IN ABEYANCE ON THE
ONE WHO IS STILL UNDER EXAMINATION?

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ANSWER ONE: SPECIFICALLY WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THAT
OUR LONG STANDING POLICY IS NOT TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF
INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES' MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR THOSE OF THEIR
DEPENDENTS. HOWEVER, WE STILL DO NOT HAVE ANY INDICATION

THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS HAS HAD ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HEALTH OF ANY OF OUR EMPLOYEES OR DEPENDENTS. BUT ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS REGARDING THE MOSCOW SIGNAL, ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS I HAVE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE DELICACY OF THESE TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO DISCUSS THOSE TALKS IN DETAIL. HOWEVER AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS I AM PREPARED TO STATE TODAY THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL BEAMED AT OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED FROM PREVIOUS RECORDINGS WHICH WERE THEMSELVES WELL BELOW ESTABLISHED US SAFETY STANDARDS. THE CURRENT SIGNAL LEVELS I AM TOLD ARE ALSO WELL BELOW THE ESTABLISHED SOVIET STANDARD AND I AM TOLD THAT THE MEASUREMENT IN THIS AREA IS THAT THE SOVIET STANDARD IS 10 MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER. OUR SAFETY STANDARD IS 10,000 MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER. NOW I AM TOLD THAT THE PRESENT SIGNAL IS 2 MICROWATTS OR LESS. HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF THE INSTALLATION OF ALUMINUM SCREENING HAS REDUCED THE STRENGTH INSIDE OF THE BUILDING TO A FRACTION OF A MICROWATT. THE PURPOSE OF OUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OUR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM IS TO BRING ABOUT A TERMINATION OF THE SIGNAL. AND FRANKLY WE REGRET THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE FAILED TO TURN OFF THE TRANSMISSIONS COMPLETELY, THEREBY, IN OUR JUDGMENT, DEMONSTRATING A LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW. I HAVE A FEW OTHER POINTS. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EXPERT CONSULTANTS AND THEY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS FROM THE SIGNAL STRENGTH. AS TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS AT LEVELS EXISTING IN THE PAST, THE DEPT HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE US WITH A DETAILED EVALUATION AND A BROAD BIOSTATISTICAL SURVEY TO TEST THE PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION OF THE EXPERTS WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THAT THERE IS NO CORRELATION BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOSCOW AND ANY HEALTH PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE SERVED THERE.

QUESTION TWO: HAS ANY RADIATION OF THIS SORT BEEN FOUND IN ANY OTHER US EMBASSY ABROAD?

ANSWER TWO: NO.

QUESTION THREE: BOB, ARE THESE CONSULTANTS THAT YOU'VE TALKED TO ABOUT THE CAUSE OF CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH HAZARDS AND THE EXPERTS WHO SAY THERE IS NO CORRELATION, ARE THEY GOVERNMENT EXPERTS?

A: NO, THEY ARE OUTSIDE. ONE IS DR. HERBERT POLLACK,
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF CLINICAL MEDICINE FROM GW.

Q: WHAT IS HIS NAME?

A: HERBERT POLLACK.

Q: HAS THE DEPT DETERMINED THE SOURCE OF THIS SIGNAL,
AND WHAT THE PURPOSE OF IT IS?

A: YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE SOVIETS.

Q: BOB, YOU SAY THAT THE PRESENT SIGNAL IS TWO MICROWATTS
OR LESS.

A: THE SIGNAL IS TWO MICROWATTS OR LESS.BUT OUR ALUMINUM
SCREENING REDUCES THAT FURTHER TO A FRACTION OF THAT.

Q: YOU SAID PRESENT SIGNAL.

A: YES-

Q: WHAT WAS THE MAXIMUM SIGNAL? THIS IMPLIES A REDUCTION
FROM WHAT?

A: THERE HAS BEEN A REDUCTION, BUT I DO NOT KNOW
SPECIFICALLY THE POINT FROM WHICH IT WAS REDUCED.

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Q: YOU SAID IT WAS REDUCED FROM SOMETHING LOWER THAN TEN.
THAT IS WHAT YOU SAID, I THINK.

A: NO, I DO NOT THINK I SAID THAT.

Q: YOU SAID THE EARLIER SIGNAL WAS LOWER THAN THE SOVIET
STANDARD, AND THE SOVIET STANDARD IS TEN.

A: NO. IF I SAID THAT, I DID NOT MEAN TO SAY THAT. WHAT
I THINK I SAID WAS THAT THE CURRENT SIGNAL LEVELS ARE
BELOW THE ESTABLISHED SOVIET STANDARD.

Q: BUT YOU DID SAY THAT THE ORIGINAL ONES WERE BELOW THE
U.S. STANDARDS.

A: THAT IS RIGHT. BUT THE U.S. STANDARD IS A THOUSAND
TIMES --

Q: WHAT DO THESE STANDARDS RELATE TO? STANDARDS OF WHAT?
INDUSTRIAL SAFETY? OR DOES IT MEAN THAT UNDER THE U.S.
STANDARD, IT IS SAFE TO BE BOMBARDED WITH TEN THOUSAND

MICROWATTS?

A: WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE PREMISE THAT IT IS ALRIGHT
TO BE QUOTE BOMBARDED UNQUOTE AT ANY LEVEL.

Q: WHAT DOES OUR STANDARD MEAN?

A: I ASSUME THAT OUR STANDARDS ARE RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL
LOCATIONS PRESUMABLY INVOLVING MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS.
IT IS FOR THIS THAT THE STANDARD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

Q: WHAT DOES THE STANDARD MEAN? IS IT SAFE AT THAT
LEVEL?

A: YES.

Q: UP TO THAT LEVEL?

A: YES, THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.
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Q: IS THE SOVIET SIGNAL ABOVE THE U.S. STANDARD?

A: NOWHERE NEAR THAT. IT WAS --

Q: YOU ALSO SAID THEY WERE BELOW THEIR OWN STANDARD,
RIGHT?

A: THEY ARE NOW.

Q: BOB, THE QUESTION IS: YOU HAVE GIVEN US ALL THIS
INFORMATION ON WHAT THE STANDARDS ARE, BUT I BELIEVE,
UNLESS I MISSED IT, YOU HAVE NOT TOLD US AT WHAT LEVEL THE
RADIATION WAS COMING IN AT ITS HIGHEST.

A: I REALLY DO NOT HAVE A FIRM FIX ON THAT. LET ME
CHECK INTO IT. I THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN ABOVE TEN, OR A
LITTLE ABOVE TEN, BUT NOT GREATLY ABOVE TEN.

Q: COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT?

A: YES. ON BACKGROUND, I DO NOT THINK IT EVER WENT
UP TO 30, FOR EXAMPLE. BUT THAT IS ON BACKGROUND. LET
ME CHECK INTO IT. END BACKGROUND

Q: THE OTHER FACTOR IN THESE STANDARDS IS THE TIME. IN
OTHER WORDS, "X" LEVEL FOR OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD COULD
BE DANGEROUS. IN OTHER WORDS, FOR WHAT DURATION WAS IT
AT A HIGH LEVEL, DO YOU KNOW? AND COULD YOU FIND OUT?

A: I HAD BETTER GO ON BACKGROUND ON THIS. I THINK THE STUDY WILL GO BACK OVER TEN YEARS. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IN THE PERIOD BEFORE TEN YEARS AGO, THE LEVEL WAS VERY LOW, PERHAPS TWO OR LESS, BUT THAT AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE LAST TEN YEARS IT WENT HIGHER. SO THAT THE STUDY THAT JOHNS HOPKINS WILL UNDERTAKE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THAT PERIOD. END BACKGROUND.

Q: WERE ANY AMERICAN CONCESSIONS MADE IN RETURN FOR THIS LOWERING OF THE MICROWAVE LEVEL, AND, IF SO, WHAT WERE THEY?

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A: NO, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A CONCESSION. BUT, AS I SAID, WE REGRET THAT THEY ARE NOT TURNING THE TRANSMISSIONS OFF COMPLETELY.

Q: SINCE YOU HAVE GONE ON THE RECORD ON THIS, WE MIGHT AS WELL LAY OUT WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW. NOW, IT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN MY NEWSPAPER AND ELSEWHERE, THAT WE HAVE ASKED THE SOVIETS WHY THEY ARE DOING IT. THE SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US, AND WE HAVE REPORTED THEY HAVE TOLD YOU, THAT THEY ARE DOING IT TO KNOCK OUT AMERICAN LISTENING APPARATUS OR OTHER INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING EQUIPMENT INSIDE, ON THE ROOF OF, THE EMBASSY.

THE AMERICANS HAVE SAID--IT HAS BEEN, I THINK, IN ONE OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS--THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE SIMILAR INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT IN THEIR EMBASSY DOWNTOWN HERE.

SO THE QUESTION IS, HAVE WE REDUCED OUR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING CAPABILITY IN MOSCOW?

A: I AM NOT REALLY ABLE HERE TO GET INTO ANY DISCUSSION OF OUR INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING EFFORTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Q: WHAT ARE THESE MICROWAVES CALLED? DO THEY HAVE A GREEK LETTER NAME IN FRONT OF THEM--GAMMA, OR ANYTHING OF THAT KIND?

A: ALL I KNOW IS THEY ARE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS. THEY ARE NON-IONIZING, UNLIKE X-RAYS, WHICH ARE IONIZING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF WHICH ARE WELL-KNOWN. BUT I AM TOLD THAT THE MICRO TRANSMISSIONS ARE NON-IONIZING AND HAVE BEEN PROVED HARMFUL ONLY AT VERY HIGH POWER DENSITIES, CONSIDERABLY ABOVE OUR OWN STANDARD OF 10,000

MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER.

Q: I AM SORRY, I DIDN'T HEAR ALL OF THE ANSWER. ARE
HARMFUL ONLY WHEN?
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A: AT VERY HIGH POWER DENSITIES, WHICH I AM TOLD,
MEANS CONSIDERABLY ABOVE THE US STANDARD OF TEN THOUSAND
MICROWATTS PER SQUARE CENTIMETER.

Q: BOB, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INCONSISTENCY, IT SEEMS
TO ME, IN THAT ON THE ONE HAND YOU ARE CLAIMING THAT
EVERYTHING IS HUNKY-DORY INSOFAR AS THE HEALTH STANDARDS
ARE CONCERNED, AND THEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU ARE
EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE
DEMONSTRATING A LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE LIVING AND WORKING
CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT EITHER THE LIVING OR THE WORKING
CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE IN MOSCOW IF IN FACT THE US
GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THERE IS NO HEALTH
HAZARD?

A: I THINK THE FACT THAT IT IS A DELIBERATE SIGNAL.
WE HAVE HAD PRESS ACCOUNTS OF VARIOUS NEWS ORGANIZATIONS
THAT HAVE TALKED TO OUR EMPLOYEES. IT CERTAINLY HAS HAD--
OUR OWN EMPLOYEES HAVE INDICATED THEIR OWN
UNHAPPINESS AND CONCERN OVER THIS SITUATION.

AND AS I INDICATED, IN TERMS OF OUR STUDY, WHILE WE HAVE
A PROVISIONAL CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO HEALTH HAZARD,
IT IS PROVISIONAL, AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE CONTRACTED FOR
THIS STUDY--CONCLUDED THIS CONTRACT WITH JOHNS
HOPKINS.

Q: AT THE VERY WORST, WHAT YOU ARE TELLING US NOW IS,
AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BOMBARDMENT, IT WAS APPROXIMATELY
ONE THREE-HUNDREDTHS OF THE U.S. SAFETY STANDARD. IT IS
NOW BELOW NOT ONLY THE U.S. SAFETY STANDARD, BUT THE
SOVIET SAFETY STANDARD. AND I AM REALLY NOT SURE I UNDER-
STAND ON WHAT BASIS YOU ARE EXPRESSING REGRET OVER THE
LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE THERE. I
MEAN, THEY MIGHT ALSO OBJECT TO THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY
IS BEING WATCHED. THAT CERTAINLY BRINGS PSYCHOLOGICAL
PRESSURE TO BEAR.

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A: YES, BUT I THINK YOU HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT THERE IS A
DIFFERENCE IN BEING WATCHED OR BEING UNDER SURVEILLANCE

AND BEING SUBJECTED TO THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY.

Q: BOB, ISN'T THE UNDERLYING QUESTION HERE --

A: WE DO NOT ENGAGE IN THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY. AND I DO NOT THINK ANYONE ELSE DOES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IS THE ONLY ONE THAT IS BEING SUBJECTED TO THIS KIND OF SIGNAL.

Q: ISN'T THE UNDERLYING QUESTION HERE THE FACT THAT THERE IS A QUESTION ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE STANDARDS THAT ARE BEING USED? ISN'T THAT WHY YOU HAVE ASKED FOR THIS SURVEY BY JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE AMERICAN SAFETY STANDARD AND THE SOVIET SAFETY STANDARD?

A: I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON THIS PROBLEM, AND I AM LIMITED, OBVIOUSLY, TO THE INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN. BUT CLEARLY, THERE IS NOT A CONCLUSIVE FINDING OR WE WOULD NOT BE SPENDING THE TIME WE ARE STUDYING THE PROBLEM. AND THE REASON WE ARE STUDYING IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR PARAMOUNT CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES.

Q: BOB, WAS THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL THAT HAS NOW BEEN GREATLY REDUCED FROM PREVIOUS RECORDINGS, WAS IT REDUCED AS A RESULT OF OVERTURES, DISCUSSIONS, OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION?

A: I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY AGREEMENT. BUT IT HAS BEEN REDUCED SINCE WE HAVE HAD OUR TALKS WITH THEM ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.

I THINK KEN IS NEXT.

Q: WHEN DID THE REDUCTION TAKE PLACE? WHEN DID YOU NOTICE THIS GREAT REDUCTION IN THE SIGNALS?

A: IT IS WITHIN A RECENT TIMEFRAME, BUT I HAVE NOT BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TOLD SPECIFICALLY.

Q: WEEKS, MONTHS? THERE WERE STORIES REPORTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT THERE HAD BEEN A 90 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE SIGNAL. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING NOW THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THEN?

A: YES, I BELIEVE SO, BUT LET ME CHECK INTO THAT.

Q:: DOESN'T THIS GO BACK TO FEBRUARY OR MARCH? I

REMEMBER STORIES ABOUT THE REDUCTION BACK THEN.

Q: WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS PUTTING NUMBERS ON PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

Q: THERE WAS A FACT SHEET THAT WENT AROUND ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, AS I RECALL. IS THAT THE SAME FIGURE?

A: YES, I BELIEVE SO.

Q: COULD YOU ESTABLISH WHETHER THERE WAS ONE REDUCTION OR WHETHER IT HAS BEEN A SERIES OF REDUCTIONS IN STAGES? I THINK A TIMETABLE WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

A: LET ME SEE IF I CAN HELP YOU.

Q: JUST FOR THE RECORD, WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO PUT SOME OF THIS PUBLIC NOW AFTER RESISTING ALL THESE MONTHS?

A: WE WERE ENGAGED IN TALKS, AND, FRANKLY, IT IS JUST A JUDGMENT CALL. WE HAVE NOW REACHED A POINT WHERE WE FEEL THAT WE CAN DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH TODAY.

Q: BOB, I MAY HAVE MISSED SOMETHING BEFORE. DID YOU SAY THAT THE STRENGTH AT ONE TIME WAS ONE THREE-HUNDREDTH OF THE U.S. STANDARD?

A: SOMEONE ELSE DID THAT ARITHMETIC, AND I HAVE NOT TRIED TO --

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Q: IS THAT RIGHT? CAN WE DIVIDE TEN THOUSAND BY THREE HUNDRED AND GET THE APPROXIMATE LEVEL IN MICROWATTS AT THE HIGH POINT?

A: I ANSWERED ON BACKGROUND WHAT I THOUGHT HAD BEEN THE STRONGEST OF SOVIET SIGNALS. AND I SAID ON BACKGROUND THAT I DID NOT THINK IT HAD REACHED THE LEVEL OF 30. THAT WAS ON BACKGROUND. I AM NOT SURE OF IT.

Q: BOB, YOU MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING INADVERTENTLY INCONSISTENT HERE.

A: IT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN INADVERTENT.

Q: YOU WERE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY RECIPROCITY, AND YOU SAID THERE WAS NOT. THEN YOU WERE ASKED IF THE UNITED

STATES--IF IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES IN FACT

HAD DECREASED SOME OF ITS OWN ELECTRONIC ACTIVITY, AND
YOU SAID YOU COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION BECAUSE IT
INVOLVES INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

COULD YOU GO IN EITHER ONE DIRECTION OR THE OTHER?

A: I WOULD NOT RELATE THE TWO ANSWERS. I WAS JUST
RESTATING A GENERAL RESPONSE, THAT I AM NOT ABLE TO GO
INTO INTELLIGENCE GATHERING ANYWHERE.

Q: BUT YOU STICK WITH THE ANSWER THAT THERE WERE NO
CONCESSIONS, NO RECIPROCITY, NO QUID PRO QUO OF ANY KIND?

A: YES.

Q: BOB, HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THAT ANSWER PREPARED TO READ
TO US, ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS?

A: SINCE TODAY.

Q: JUST TODAY?

A: YES.
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Q: WOULDYOU HAVE READ IT TO US IF IT HADN'T COME UP?

A: I WOULD HAVE ENSURED THAT THE INFORMATION GOT OUT
TODAY, YES. KISSINGER

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